

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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Applicant : KUWABARA et al.  
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Customer No. : 22242

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
2011 South Clark Place  
Customer Window, Mail Stop **Patent Application**  
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03  
Arlington, VA 22202

January 13, 2004

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please enter this Preliminary Amendment.

- (1) Amendment to the specification begins on page 2.
  
- (2) Remarks begin on page 3.